

right, but just—just enough to escape the slings and arrows that fortune places in our path, just enough to survive. And His Majesty King Hassan did more than that. I think of him instead as a pathfinder, a leader who survived, yes, but who survived to expand the possibilities of the Moroccan people and all the people of this region.

He showed it is possible to be commander of the faithful and a champion of tolerance and a bridge between faiths. He showed it is possible to represent continuity and stability and to build the society that is more and more democratic and open—open to competing ideas and other people. He showed it is possible to promote Islam's holy sites in Jerusalem and to reach out to Israel and the dream of peace, dignity, and security for all God's children in this region. He was a leader of the Arab world and a friend of America.

With our modern world still so bedeviled by ancient animosities of race and religion, King Hassan believed that there is no inevitable clash of civilizations but, instead, a clash between those brave enough to seek a future of peace, prosperity, and harmony and those who fear it. He was brave enough to seek that kind of world. He belonged to a generation of brave leaders—King Hussein of Jordan, Yitzhak Rabin of Israel, Sheik Isa of Bahrain—a generation that brought this region to the turning point we now face. The opportunity for lasting peace is now at hand.

I met with your new King this afternoon. I spoke with him also shortly after I learned that his father had passed away. I have confidence in him. We spoke about the challenges ahead. We spoke about my family's gratitude for all the trips that they have taken to Morocco and the kindness that His Majesty extended to them. King Hassan made her feel not only at home but a part of his family. And I told King Mohammed that now we would be proud to have him feel a part of our family.

The people of Morocco should know they are in the thoughts and prayers of the American people today, and that our partnership can only grow stronger. You know, sometimes we come together to mourn the death of a friend and we are heavy with sorrow because we think about what might have

been. Today we pay tribute to the long life of a wise King and a good man. And we think about what still might be because of the life he lived. We are grateful for that life, and we pray for the future that he worked for. We pray for the future partnership and peace of the peoples of this region. And we hope our prayers will be answered, for we remember the words of the prophet that rewards for prayers by people assembled are twice those said at home.

Thank you for assembling for our country every day. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:05 p.m. in the Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Secretaries of State Warren M. Christopher and James A. Baker III; former President George Bush; Ambassador Edward M. Gabriel and his wife, Kathleen; and the First Lady's mother, Dorothy Rodham. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Actions Concerning Digital Computer Exports

July 23, 1999

Dear _____:

In accordance with the provisions of section 1211(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105-85) (the "Act"), I hereby notify you of my decision to establish a new level for the notification procedure for digital computers set forth in section 1211(a) of the Act. The new level will be 6,500 millions of theoretical operations per second (MTOPS). I have taken this action based on the recommendation of the Departments of Defense, Commerce, State, and Energy. The attached report provides the rationale supporting this decision and fulfills the requirements of section 1211(d) of the Act.

Section 1211(d) provides that any adjustment to the control level described in section 1211(a) cannot take effect until 180 days after receipt of this report by the Congress. Section 1211(e) provides that any deletion of a country from the Tier 3 group cannot take effect until 120 days after the Congress is

notified. Given the rapid pace of technological change in the information technology industry, these time periods are too lengthy. I hope that we can work together to reduce both notification periods to 30 days. Such changes will permit implementation of my current decision and future changes in a more timely fashion.

I have directed the Secretary of Commerce to adjust the level at which an individual license is required for computer exports to Tier 3 countries. For sales to military entities, the level will be raised from 2,000 MTOPS to 6,500 MTOPS. For sales to civilian end users, the new level will be raised from 7,000 MTOPS to 12,300 MTOPS. The Secretaries of Commerce and Defense will review these levels, as well as the level described in section 1211(a), in 6 months to determine whether further adjustments will be necessary at that time. They will conduct additional such reviews at regular 6-month periods thereafter.

Such action will complement other actions that I am taking with respect to the export and reexport of computers. I have directed the Secretary of Commerce to adjust the level at which an individual license is required for computer exports to Tier 2 countries from 10,000 MTOPS to 20,000 MTOPS. I have also asked the Secretaries of Commerce and Defense to assess whether further adjustments to 32,000–36,000 MTOPS will be required in 6 months. They will conduct additional reviews at 6-month intervals thereafter. Additionally, I have directed the Secretary of Commerce to move the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Brazil from Tier 2 to Tier 1. It is likely that additional countries will be moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1 in the coming months.

All these adjustments will take place immediately, with the exception of the change to the individual licensing level for military end users in Tier 3, which will coincide with the change for the notification provisions of section 1211(a) of the Act. Both these changes will become effective at the end of the 180-day notification period, unless the Congress provides for a shorter period.

I also want to inform you of my support for section 1407(c) of S. 1059, or similar legislative language that would permit me to ad-

just the level of computer exports above which the Department of Commerce is required to perform post-shipment verifications in Tier 3 countries. Failure to adjust this level will result in the expenditure of scarce enforcement resources for questionable benefits to our shared national security concerns.

I look forward to working cooperatively with the Congress on these issues.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John W. Warner, chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Phil Gramm, chairman, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Floyd Spence, chairman, House Committee on Armed Services; and Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, House Committee on International Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on Efforts To
Achieve a Sustainable Peace in
Bosnia and Herzegovina**

July 23, 1999

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 7 of Public Law 105–174, the 1998 Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Act, I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on progress made toward achieving benchmarks for a sustainable peace process.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 23, 1999.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26.

**Statement on the Ninth Anniversary
of the Americans with Disabilities
Act**

July 26, 1999

Today I join citizens across the country in celebrating the ninth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In

the past, many Americans have presumed that disability meant a life of dependence. Now, we recognize that people with disabilities want to, and can lead independent lives and contribute to our Nation's prosperity. Throughout our administration, Vice President Gore and I have endeavored to empower individuals with the tools they need to bring their tremendous energy and talent to the American work force.

My Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities is building on the foundation of the ADA by developing a coordinated and active employment agenda for people with disabilities. We have taken strong action to promote the employment of individuals with disabilities, including implementing new regulations that increase the amount of income that over 250,000 Americans with disabilities can earn while still receiving critical cash and medical benefits, instituting new steps to remove Federal hiring barriers for people with mental illness, and directing the Office of Personnel Management to develop a plan for Federal hiring of people with disabilities. And under the leadership of Tipper Gore, we are beginning to address the stigma and discrimination confronted by people with psychiatric disabilities.

I am proud of the actions that this administration has taken to fully integrate Americans with disabilities into the workplace. It is now time for Congress to act. In my State of the Union, I challenged the Congress to pass the bipartisan "Work Incentives Improvement Act," sponsored by Senators Jeffords, Kennedy, Roth, and Moynihan, which would improve job opportunities for people with disabilities by increasing access to health care and employment services. It was my hope that I could have signed this legislation into law today, but the House has not yet acted on it. I remain committed to enacting this legislation in this Congress.

We should also work together across party lines to enact a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights, provide new tax options to assist individuals with disabilities with their work-related expenses, and double the available funding for assistive technologies that will facilitate employment. We must make this a season of progress, not a season of partisanship. We can achieve this end by passing

all three of these critically important initiatives. There would be no better way to celebrate the ninth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Statement on Vietnam-United States Relations

July 26, 1999

I am pleased that the Office of the United States Trade Representative and the Vietnamese Trade Ministry reached an understanding in principle on the terms of a broad commercial agreement between the United States and Vietnam. This provisional arrangement is a major step forward for both countries, and I congratulate our American negotiators and those of Vietnam on their work. I will review the agreement carefully and consult further with the Congress and the Government of Vietnam in the hope that we will be able to move on to finalization, formal signature, and the establishment of normal trade relations very soon.

In addition to promoting American commercial interests, enhancing our economic relations with Vietnam will also help advance cooperation with Vietnam on other issues of importance to our Nation. These include obtaining the fullest possible accounting of our missing from the war, encouraging continued progress in the freedom of emigration, and seeking improvements in the human rights situation in Vietnam. Since the United States normalized relations with Vietnam in 1995, we have made steady progress in each of those areas. A bilateral trade agreement with Vietnam constitutes one more positive step in that process.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Transportation Department Reports

July 26, 1999

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the 1996 calendar year reports as prepared by the Department of Transportation on activities under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, the Highway Safety Act, and the

Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act of 1972, as amended.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 26, 1999.

**Interview With Mike Cuthbert of
“Prime Time Radio” in Lansing,
Michigan**
July 22, 1999

Mr. Cuthbert. Hi. I’m Mike Cuthbert in Lansing, Michigan; welcome back to “Prime Time Radio.” As we promised you, we’ll present full and indepth discussion of the proposed changes in our health care system, with particular focus on Medicare, as the year 2000 campaign begins. But the discussion of Medicare has not waited for the campaign to start, as you know.

With us here in Lansing, Michigan, is President Clinton, who just finished having a discussion with folks from Michigan on Medicare. Mr. President, welcome to “Prime Time Radio.”

The President. Thank you. I’m glad to be here.

Health Care Reform and Medicare

Mr. Cuthbert. Back in 1992, in a long discussion about health care reform, you stopped the proceedings and you said, very firmly, “Without wholesale health care reform, we have no hope of a stabilized, long-term economic recovery.” The economic recovery has been long, but health care reform didn’t happen. How does that impact on the Medicare plans?

The President. Well, the one thing that I didn’t believe that has happened that was good is that we had—I didn’t believe that we could get health care inflation down to the general rate of inflation without moving to universal coverage. And I think what happened was we got all the benefits of managed care in the early years—and we were very fortunate to do so—but now we’re also living with the burdens, as you hear all the horror stories that prompted me to push the Patients’ Bill of Rights.

So I think where we are now is—where I am, at least, is I’m trying to extend health

insurance coverage to discrete groups that don’t have it, to try to improve the way the system works and do more preventive care, and try to modernize and stabilize the Medicare program. For example, we, 2 years ago, provided for funds to cover 5 million children who don’t have health insurance. In this Medicare reform package, we have a proposal to allow people between the ages of 55 and 65 who don’t have insurance to buy into Medicare.

But the most important thing we can do now is to stabilize Medicare financially by putting some more cash into it over the next 10 years, by adopting the most modern practices, and by providing more preventive services free, like testing and screenings for osteoporosis and cancer and other things, and adding a prescription drug benefit that we can afford.

So I think that this will be a very good, balanced package. It’s completely voluntary. It gives seniors another choice on Medicare. But the most important thing is it stabilizes Medicare for 27 years, and that’s very, very important, because all the baby boomers start retiring in—well, they’ll start retiring sooner, but the baby boomers start turning 65 in 2011. The oldest baby boomers are already in the AARP. That seems impossible to me, but there it is. [Laughter]

So to me, it’s very, very important that we not spend too much of this surplus on a tax cut before we do the first things first, before we stabilize Social Security, stabilize Medicare and reform it. And incidentally, my proposal, if it’s adopted as I sent it to Congress, would also make America debt-free in 15 years, for the first time in 160 years. So that would be a good thing to do, as well.

**Link Between Medicare, Social Security,
and Education**

Mr. Cuthbert. One thing I noticed you have done since this focus began—and you did it again here in Lansing—was you always mention Medicare and Social Security and you never fail to mention education. This program talks a lot about “sandwich generation” issues. What do you see, and what should the American people see, as the importance of that link between Medicare, Social Security, and education, which seem to